

Message Text

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TO USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION GENEVA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION BERLIN

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SALT

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SUBJECT: AMERICAN PRESS COVERAGE

VIENNA AND GENEVA FOR MBFR AND CSCE

INFO FOR PAOS

UNCLASSIFIED

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1. HIGHLIGHTS. MID-EAST TRUCE PROGRESS WAS FEATURED BY
NEWSPAPERS FRIDAY THROUGH MONDAY; ALSO FRONTPAGED
KISSINGER'S TRAVELS. SUNDAY BALTSUN FRONTPAGED VIENNA
STORY; MONDAY WASHPOST FRONTPAGES PROXMIRE CONTENTION

COMPETITIVE BIDDING CUT MISSILE COSTS. SOME ADDITIONAL EDITORIALS DISCUSS NATO, ALSO TROOP CUTS.

1A. INSIDE STORIES INCLUDED: TALKS SET IN ICELAND ON US BASE; BALTSUN PARKS MOSCOW, RUSSIA PRAISES ARABS' EMBARGO OF OIL TO WEST; FRIDAY NYTIMES KEMEZIS BRUSSELS REPORTED COMMART SAID TO RESIST US EFFORTS TO INSERT WORDS INTERDEPENDENCE AND PARTNERSHIP IN JOINT DECLARATION. FRIDAY PAPERS REPORTED US-EUROPE STRAINS AS EASING, BUT SUNDAY NYTIMES WHITNEY BONN SAID US-NATO DISPUTE STILL UNRESOLVED. SUNDAY NYTIMES HOFMANN ATHENS REPORTED NAVAL FORCES IN MEDITERRANEAN IRK SOUTHERN EUROPE, ANXIOUS ABOUT SO MANY NUCLEAR ARMS. SUNDAY NYTIMES ALSO REPORTED MRS. MYRDAL, IN HER FINAL UN SPEECH, TOLD POLITICAL COMMITTEE GENUINE PROGRESS TOWARD DISARMAMENT CAN COME ONLY WHEN SUPERPOWERS AGREE TO QUALITATIVE DISARMAMENT, FREEZING THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WEAPONS.

1B. OTHER STORIES INCLUDE CRANSTON ASKS OVERSEAS MILITARY CUTS IN EXCHANGE FOR NEW MULTIBILLION SUPPLEMENTAL BUDGET; SUNDAY NYTIMES MIDDLETON NEW YORK REPORTED FIERCE INTRAMURAL DEBATE ON FUTURE OF AIR FORCE'S AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND, IN EFFORT TO MEET BUDGET REDUCTIONS BY CUTTING MILITARY MISSIONS RATHER THAN REDUCING EXPENDITURE FOR NEW WEAPONS SYSTEMS.

2. TROOP CUTTING. SUNDAY BALTSUN PARKS VIENNA REPORTED EAST-WEST NEGOTIATIONS RESEMBLE A SET OF EQUATIONS WITH SEVERAL HUNDRED UNKNOWN AND VARIABLE FACTORS, YET ON THEIR SOLUTION RESTS THE FUTURE OF DETENTE IN EUROPE. PARKS POSES QUESTIONS ABOUT EQUIVALENCE ON TANKS AND PLANES, ALSO US AND SOVIET TROOP WITHDRAWALS, AND ASKS: HOW CAN WEST'S JOINT NEGOTIATING POSITION, REACHED THROUGH HARMONIZING VERY DIFFERENT INTERESTS AMONG NATO MEMBERS, STILL PROVIDE MAXIMUM SECURITY FOR EACH COUNTRY? THE ANSWERS WILL COME, SAID PARKS, IF THEY DO AT ALL, FROM UNCLASSIFIED

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JUDGMENT AND NEGOTIATION AND NOT FROM COMPUTATION, STRESSING THAT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN EAST AND WEST APPROACHES WILL MEAN TALKS WILL LAST TWO YEARS OR MORE, DESPITE FLEXIBILITY SHOWN BY EACH SIDE SO FAR. PARKS SAID WEST ASSERTS EAST MUST WITHDRAW TWO OR THREE MEN AND TANKS TO EVERY ONE WEST WITHDRAWS IN ORDER TO CORRECT PRESENT IMBALANCE. PARKS CITED VARIOUS FIGURES FROM LONDON'S INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES, INCLUDING NATO HAS ABOUT 7,000 NUCLEAR WARHEADS AGAINST ABOUT HALF THAT MANY OF SOVIET UNION AND ITS ALLIES. PARKS INDICATED COMPLICATIONS CAUSED BY ROLES OF FRANCE AND HUNGARY. PARKS REPORTED BOTH SIDES HOPE SOME CONCRETE AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED IN NEXT YEAR TO PERMIT PRE-

LIMINARY WITHDRAWALS IN 1975, BUT QUOTED A SOVIET OBSERVER AS STRESSING EXTREME COMPLICATION AND TECHNICAL CHARACTER OF NEGOTIATIONS AND QUOTED NATO OBSERVER SAYING: WE ARE NOT EVEN DEALING WITH REAL THREATS BUT JUST WITH PERCEIVED THREATS TO A COUNTRY'S SECURITY. PARKS ADDED VERIFICATION IS ALSO GREAT PROBLEM.

3. COMMENT. THURSDAY BALTIMORE EVENING SUN LAMENTED THAT NEGOTIATORS AT VIENNA ARE TALKING IN TERMS OF YEARS WHEN THEY SHOULD BE TALKING IN TERMS OF MONTHS. SUN SAW A CLEAR NEED FOR STEADY DELIBERATE SPEED, AT LEAST TOWARD SOME INITIAL BREAKTHROUGHS. KANSAS CITY TIMES OCT. 31 EDITORIAL WAS MORE RECONCILED TO NEED FOR TIME IN NEGOTIATION AND CALLED FOR A RESOLVE BY US AND ITS ALLIES

NOT TO MAKE CONCESSIONS THAT ARE NOT REASONABLY MATCHED BY SOVIET BLOC. NEW ORLEANS TIMES-PICAYUNE NOVEMBER 4 CITED PRACTICAL EXPERIENCE WITH SOVIET AIRLIFT IN MIDEAST WAR AND CONCLUDED THAT IF TROOP REDUCTIONS AGREEMENTS ARE ACTUALLY MADE, THE TERMS MUST BE MUCH STRICTER THAN ANY APPARENTLY IN MIND AT PRESENT, ADDING THAT IF SOVIETS CONTINUE TO BALK IT IS A QUESTION WHETHER THE NEGOTIATIONS ARE WORTH CONTINUING IF RESULT IS TO BE A SYMBOLIC BUT OTHERWISE SUBSTANCELESS PACT THAT COULD ONLY DO MISCHIEF.

4. NATO COMMENTS. SUNDAY WASHSTAR COMMENTED IT'S HIGH TIME TO PUT END TO OUTBURST OF RECRIMINATION BETWEEN UNCLASSIFIED

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US AND NATO ALLIES AS RESULT OF ISRAELI-ARAB CONFLICT. EUROPEANS MUST UNDERSTAND THEY TOO HAVE LARGE STAKE IN PERFORMANCE OF US IN HONORING ITS COMMITMENTS AND US MUST UNDERSTAND THAT EUROPE IS UNDER NO SPECIAL OBLIGATION TO SUPPORT US POLICY UNRESERVEDLY IN OTHER PARTS OF WORLD.

4A. SATURDAY NYTIMES SAID ALL BLAME FOR ANGRY OCTOBER QUARREL BETWEEN US AND NATO DOES NOT REST ON WASHINGTON'S SHOULDERS BUT US CANNOT EXPECT EUROPE TO ACCEPT RISKS OF OIL CUT-OFF UNLESS IT MAKES REALISTIC ENERGY-SHARING PROPOSALS. WHAT APPLIES TO MIDEAST APPLIES EVEN MORE TO ALL ISSUES OF TRADE, MONEY, DEFENSE AND ARMS CONTROL IN EUROPE THAT HAVE STRAINED ALLIANCE IN RECENT YEARS. COMMON ACTION BY THE ATLANTIC ALLIES IN THE COMMON INTEREST IS ESSENTIAL IN ALL THESE FIELDS. CONSULTATION MUST BE TWO-WAY STREET, AND COMMON ACTION COULD BE ADVANCED BY A STRONGLY-WORDED ATLANTIC DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES.

4B. NORFOLK PILOT NOVEMBER 2 SAID WASHINGTON'S THOUGHT-LESSNESS AND RUDENESS DURING MIDEAST WAR ADD TO STRAINS ALREADY UPON ATLANTIC ALLIANCE. WASHINGTON HAS NEGLECTED

TIES WITH WESTERN EUROPE. IT IS WELL TO MAKE PEACE WITH MOSCOW AND PEKING BUT IT IS GRACELESS AT BEST TO IGNORE OLD FRIENDS AND THEN CHIDE THEM FOR NOT SUPPORTING POLICIES FOR WHICH LITTLE EFFORT HAS BEEN MADE TO ELICIT THEIR SUPPORT OR SYMPATHY.

4C. THURSDAY LATIMES ACKNOWLEDGED DEEP AND DANGEROUS RIFT BETWEEN US AND EUROPE AS RESULT OF MIDDLE EAST CRISIS. US MUST BEAR SHARE OF BLAME BUT IF US WAS GUILTY OF INSENSITIVITY, EUROPEANS SHOWED THEMSELVES TO BE DANGEROUSLY UNREALISTIC. IF NATO ALLIES INSIST ON VETO OF TEMPORARY DEPLOYMENT OF US MILITARY FROM BASES IN EUROPE

TO CRISIS POINT ELSEWHERE, THEY WILL INCREASE PRES

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